

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JAMES W. H. TRAIL,

A.M., M.B., C.M.,

Fellow of the Linnean Society,

Examiner in Botany and in Zoology for Degrees in Medicine

in the University of Aberdeen,

President of the Natural History Society of Aberdeen,

CANDIDATE FOR THE PROFESSORSHIP OF BOTANY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

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TESTIMONIALS.

*From the late Very Reverend P. C. CAMPBELL, D.D., Principal of
the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,

30th Sept, 1870.

MR. JAMES W. H. TRAIL, M.A., of this University, has long been known to me, and I bear with pleasure and confidence a high testimony to his abilities, attainments, and character.

As a Student in the Faculty of Arts, Mr. TRAIL earned honourable distinction in all the classes, and closed his curriculum by receiving "Honours" at Graduation in the department of Natural Science.

To the various studies comprehended under that designation he has of late almost exclusively devoted his time and talents; and has obtained in them what may truly be termed brilliant distinction, having been first prizeman in Natural History (Mineralogy, Geology, and Zoology), in Botany, and in Chemistry.

He has at the same time prosecuted field studies as a naturalist with unwearied vigour, enthusiasm, and success, affording ample evidence of mental and physical energy, and of his fitness for any situation in which such qualities are required. In this respect, as well as in his youthfulness,

he is singularly well adapted for an appointment in a colony where there is much in the various departments of nature still to be explored; while his thorough general training as a Student and Graduate in Arts, insures his capacity for conveying to others the knowledge he possesses. Mr. Trail is in disposition and character all that can be desired, and I anticipate for him, if spared, the highest distinction in the department of knowledge in which he has already made such remarkable acquirements, and to which he devotes himself with such rare ardour and ability.

P. C. CAMPBELL.

*From Mr. JOHN R. JACKSON, A.L.S., Curator of the Museums,
Royal Gardens, Kew.*

MUSEUM, Jan. 8th, 1877.

MY DEAR TRAIL,—I am highly pleased to hear that you are to be a candidate for the Botanical Chair at Aberdeen, because I know that the duties would be most congenial to you, and because I am sure that the University would benefit much from your experience and love of Botany.

So far as your knowledge of the preparation and preservation of Museum objects is concerned, few persons are so well qualified as yourself. Your specimens in this Museum could not have been better or more carefully preserved, and I am indebted to you for many useful hints on these matters.

Wishing your complete success,

I am, very truly yours,

JOHN R. JACKSON.

From DANIEL OLIVER, Esq., F.R.S., &c.; *Keeper of the Herbarium of the Royal Gardens, and Professor of Botany in University College, London. Author of "Lessons in Elementary Botany;" "First Book of Indian Botany;" "Flora of Tropical Africa," &c.*

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,
8th January, 1877.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in bearing my strong testimony to the eminent qualifications you possess for the chair of Botany in Aberdeen, about to be vacated by Professor Dickie.

The very important results of your exploration, a few years ago, of the Amazon and its tributaries, prove you to possess all the qualifications of a thoroughly good naturalist, amongst them a wise caution and power of comprehensive correlation of materials—as evinced in your treatment of the splendid collection of Palms which you brought home, and which was deposited in the National Herbarium—which are only too rare. Your monograph of the Amazons Palmaceæ I regard as quite one of the most valuable works in that order.

I am not myself aware whether you have had actual experience in teaching, but I am satisfied, from the frequent opportunities I have had of discussing botanical matters with you, that you possess the most important qualifications of a teacher.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

DANIEL OLIVER.

From H. TRIMEN, Esq., M.B. ; F.L.S. ; Assistant, Department of Botany, British Museum. Editor of the "Journal of Botany".

BRITISH MUSEUM,
8th Jan., 1877.

MY DEAR Dr TRAIL,—I am glad to hear that you intend being a candidate for the chair of Botany in Aberdeen University.

From what I know of you, I am able to say that I am sure you will be fully competent to discharge the duties of the post, so far as these are dependent on a sound knowledge of plants and acquaintance with the wider field of general biological science.

Believe me to be,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY TRIMEN.

From J. G. BAKER, Esq., F.L.S., Lecturer on Botany at the London Hospital; Assistant in the Herbarium, Royal Gardens, Kew. Author of "Monograph of British Roses"; "Revisio Liliacearum"; "Compositæ Floræ Brasiliensis"; &c., &c.

Kew HERBARIUM, Jan. 9, 1877.

I HAVE made acquaintance with Dr. TRAIL through his coming to the Kew Herbarium to work up the results of his expedition to the Amazon, and after studying out in detail the Ferns of his collection, and having been in almost daily communication with him during several weeks, I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony that he is excellently fitted to fill the post of a Professor of Botany, not only from his wide knowledge of the Science, but also from his steady and systematic method of working, and from his obliging disposition.

J. G. BAKER.

*From the Rev. JOHN BLACK, M.A., Professor of Humanity,
University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
9th January, 1877.

MY DEAR MR. TRAIL.—You have my very best wishes in your Candidature for the chair of Botany in our University.

Your qualifications as a Naturalist will be spoken of by others more competent than I am to do you justice in that respect. What I do know and gladly testify to, is, that you have shown in such studies the eager enthusiasm and untiring perseverance which are the best guarantees of success, alike in the case of a student and of a teacher.

Having always regarded you as a young man of brilliant promise in your favourite department, I shall be much gratified to hear that your services are to be secured to our common *Alma Mater*.

Yours sincerely.

JOHN BLACK.

*From G. BENTHAM, Esq., F.R.S., Vice-Pres. L.S., &c., &c., Author
of "A Handbook of the British Flora;" "Flora Hong-
kongensis;" "Genera Plantarum;" &c., &c.*

25 WILTON PLACE, S.W.

11th Jan., 1877.

My DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note, I beg to state that, although my personal acquaintance with you has hitherto unfortunately, been but very limited, yet, from the nature of the collections formed by you in the Amazonian region, and from the manner, especially, in which you have worked out the Palms of that country for your papers in the *Journal of Botany*, I have been led to form a high opinion of your acquirements in scientific botany. I sincerely hope that they may be duly appreciated, and obtain for you the appointment for which you are applying.

I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE BENTHAM.

From J. MACROBIN, Esq., M.D., Emerit. Professor of Practice of Medicine, and late Dean of the Medical Faculty, University of Aberdeen.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,

12th Jan., 1877.

It affords me great pleasure to express the high opinion I entertain of the qualifications of Dr. J. W. H. TRAIL for the Chair of Botany in the University of Aberdeen.

After a distinguished career as a Student in Arts and in Medicine, which terminated in his graduation with highest Honours, Dr. Trail devoted himself exclusively to Natural Science—more especially to Botany. By earnest, constant, and zealous labour, he has already earned a high reputation as an accurate and scientific observer in this department of Science.

The collections in the different branches of Botany, which he made during the Amazon expedition, and his subsequent contributions to Botanical Journals, give ample proof that he is an original and scientific investigator, and most worthy of the office for which he is now a candidate.

Dr. Trail's advanced knowledge of Zoology and his education generally as a Physician, add greatly in my opinion to his fitness for the office,—more particularly as bearing on *Materia Medica*. Should Dr. Trail obtain the Chair of Botany, the University will secure the services of one who will, I am sure, continue to labour earnestly in the interests of Science, and who will spare no efforts in the instruction of the students;—and will, I feel confident, add to the high repute of its medical school.

J. MACROBIN, M.D.

From JOSEPH D. HOOKER, M.D., C.B. ; &c., &c., *President, Royal Society, F.L.S., &c., &c. ; Director, Royal Gardens, Kew. Author of "The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M.S. Erebus and Terror ;" "Handbook of the New Zealand Flora ;" "Student's Flora of the British Islands ;" "Genera Plantarum ;" &c., &c..*

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,
13th January, 1877.

MY DEAR DR. TRAIL,—I am glad that you are a candidate for the Professorship of Botany in the University of Aberdeen about to be vacated by our friend, Dr. Dickie, to whom you have acted as Assistant for several years, to his entire satisfaction, as well as to that of his class. I regard you as in every way competent to do credit to this Professorship, whether in the class-room, or in the field ; and I found this opinion upon my knowledge of your distinguished University career, on my experience of your acquirements as a Naturalist, and especially as a Botanist, of your devotion to Natural Science, and of the value of your published writings upon the Palms.

You, moreover, possess the rare qualification of having been charged with the important duty of investigating and reporting on the useful vegetable products of the Amazon river, which duty you performed with great credit to yourself. During your voyage on that river, you not only gained a knowledge of the vegetable resources of one of the richest botanical countries on the globe, but you brought to Europe

botanical collections which, whether for their scientific interest, extent, or good preservation, are quite admirable.

I have only to add, that I can testify with as much satisfaction to your personal as to your other qualifications.

I am,

My dear Dr. Trail,

Very faithfully yours,

JOS. D. HOOKER.

*From F. BUCHANAN WHITE, Esq., M.D., F.L.S., &c., Editor of the
"Scottish Naturalist."*

PERTH, 15th Jan., 1877.

HAVING had the pleasure of Dr. J. W. H. TRAIL'S acquaintance for several years (and thereby had an opportunity of judging of his abilities), it gives me much satisfaction to express my belief that he is well qualified, in every respect, to occupy the Chair of Botany in the University of Aberdeen, and to fill the position not only with credit to himself, but with advantage to the University.

F. BUCHANAN WHITE.

From JAMES NICOL, Esq., F.R.S.E. ; F.G.S., Professor of Natural History, University of Aberdeen.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
16th January, 1877.

HAVING known Dr. JAMES TRAIL intimately during the whole course of his studies, I have the fullest confidence in expressing my opinion of his high claims and qualifications for the Chair of Botany in this University.

When attending my lectures as a student of Arts, he was distinguished for his unvarying good conduct, diligence, and great abilities, and gained the highest prizes in the class. He subsequently took the Degree of A.M. with Honours in Natural Science. He showed the same eminent qualities as a student of Medicine, and graduated also with the Highest Honours. Throughout his whole course he was an ardent and energetic student of the various departments of Natural History, working with me in the classification and arrangement of the University Museum, and also as an active observer in the field.

The thoroughness and great success with which Dr. J. Trail has used his opportunities of becoming acquainted with various departments of Natural History, has been shown by the results of a scientific journey to Brazil, which he undertook chiefly for the purpose of examining the Botanical productions of the Valley of the Amazon. The unwearied zeal and energy with which he carried out this mission, is fully proved by his large collection of Palms and other tropical plants now deposited in the Kew Herbarium, and

also by the many interesting specimens with which he has enriched our University Museums.

Dr. Trail's accurate and extensive knowledge of Botany and the connected departments of Natural History, and his power of communicating his knowledge to others is fully exhibited in his various published papers, especially in his description of the species and varieties of Palms discovered by him, now appearing in the *Journal of Botany*. With our native plants and the localities in this neighbourhood where they occur he is thoroughly acquainted.

From my long and intimate knowledge of his general character, his great talents, and scientific attainments, I have therefore no hesitation in recommending him to the vacant chair, and shall gladly welcome him as a colleague well fitted to prove acceptable as a teacher, and to do honour to the University.

JAMES NICOL.

From ALEX. OGSTON, Esq., M.D., *Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary,*
Aberdeen ; formerly Examiner for Degrees in Medicine.

252 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
 19th Jan., 1877.

MY DEAR Dr. TRAIL.—I have great pleasure in wishing you success in your application for the Aberdeen Professorship of Botany. You are the only local man we have who is fitted to maintain and even increase the distinction Dr. Dickie's incumbency has conferred upon it.

You have been a Naturalist and Botanist, and a true labourer in the field of Science for many years, and have by good work already done, given promise of more and even higher work.

You have wisely fitted yourself for filling a naturalist's and botanist's place in a Medical School, by devoting some of your spare time to taking a Medical Degree, and going through an ordinary Medical Curriculum in such a manner as to have obtained highest honours on Graduation.

I know you have in your present application the good wishes of most of those connected with our Medical School; and I, like them, am sure you would add lustre to our University.

Your other qualifications for the post are as admirable as your scientific claims.

Yours very sincerely,

ALEX. OGSTON.

From A. BAIN, Esq., M.A., LL.D., Professor of the English Language and English Literature, and of Logic. Author of "The Senses and the Intellect;" "The Emotions and the Will;" &c., &c.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
20th Jan., 1877.

MR. JAMES W. H. TRAIL studied in the English Class in this University in 1866-7, and in the Logic Class in 1868-9; in both he was an exceedingly diligent student, and made a highly creditable appearance. From my knowledge of his conduct and career in other departments, I can bear full testimony to his energy, ability, and ardour, and look forward to his attaining great distinction as a man of Science.

A. BAIN.

From JAMES S. BRAZIER Esq., F.S.C., *Professor of Chemistry,*
University of Aberdeen.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
20th Jan., 1877.

IT is with much pleasure that I comply with the request made me the other day that I would say what I know of the attainments of Mr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL in regard to Natural Science.

Mr. Trail graduated as a Master of Arts at this University at the close of the term 1869-70, taking his Degree with "Honours" in the department of Natural Science—(a department including Geology, Zoology, Chemistry, and Botany).

While under me as a Student, Mr. Trail showed great aptitude in the acquirement of chemical facts and theories. The success that attended his study of Chemistry, earned for him a high position, entitling him to the First Prize given at the close of the Theoretical Course of Lectures which he attended, and to a Testimonial of Proficiency at the close of his instruction in Practical Chemistry.

Mr. Trail has since graduated as an M.B. and C.M., taking highest Academical Honours.

I was only too glad to secure his services as Teaching Assistant in the Class of Practical Chemistry during the Summer of 1873. The regular, attentive, and zealous manner in which he discharged the duties that devolved upon him, merited my heartiest approbation, and I believe that the method in which he imparted instruction was well appreciated by the students.

JAMES S. BRAZIER.

From GEORGE OGILVIE FORBES, Esq., M.D., *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Aberdeen; Author of "The Master Builder's Plan," "The Genetic Cycle in Organic Nature," &c.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
23rd January, 1877.

I HAVE much pleasure in expressing my high opinion of Dr. TRAIL'S acquirements in Botany and other departments of Natural Science. Dr. Trail has been well known to me for several years, as one of our most talented and hard-working students; and discharged the duties for me as class-assistant in 1872 with much efficiency.

While he devoted himself especially to Natural History, he was so far from neglecting the more strictly professional branches of Medical Study that he took his degree with the Highest Honours, notwithstanding the interruption of two years' absence on a botanical mission to Brazil to the duties of which he devoted himself exclusively at the time, and the fruits of which he has since been assiduously engaged in working up, to the entire satisfaction, I have reason to believe, of those who are concerned in the scientific department of the expedition.

Along, I believe, with all his other teachers, it will give me much pleasure to welcome Dr. Trail as a colleague, if he proves successful in his present application.

GEO. OGILVIE FORBES, M.D.

*From the Rev. WM. MILLIGAN, D.D., Professor of Divinity and
Biblical Criticism in the University of Aberdeen.*

THE UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN,
24th January, 1877.

Mr. TRAIL has asked me to express my opinion of him as candidate for the Chair of Botany in this University. Of his botanical attainments I cannot speak, although I believe them to be of a high order, for he has long devoted himself to the study of plants, both at home and abroad. Leaving that point to others, I can speak of him with the utmost confidence as a man.

I believe that if appointed to the Chair about to be vacant, he will make an excellent professor. He is young, ardent, and unwearied in the pursuit of knowledge, Natural Science having indeed been with him a passion rather than a study.

His dispositions are kind, and his manners gentle, so that young men will find in him a companion and friend as well as a teacher, and I am sure of this, that in no way will he spare himself to do them good. Both in private and public his influence over students will be always on the side of what is sound in principle and high in aim.

In every respect in which I can speak of him at all, he seems to me worthy of the greatest confidence and esteem.

WM. MILLIGAN, D.D.

From WILLIAM PIRRIE, Esq., M.D., LL.D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Aberdeen, and Senior Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; Author of "The Principles and Practice of Surgery," &c.

253 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
24th January, 1877.

I HAVE pleasure in bearing testimony to the talents, acquirements, and distinguished career of Dr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL, and in stating that his knowledge of practical branches of Medical Science, which he studied simply for the purpose of obtaining a degree, was of a high order.

I am not qualified to express an opinion of Dr. Trail's knowledge of Botany, but his acquirements in that subject are certified to by some of the most distinguished Botanists of the day.

WILLIAM PIRRIE.

From JOHN ROY, Esq., Secretary of the Aberdeen Natural History Society.

ABERDEEN, 24th, January, 1877.

It would be a source of great satisfaction to the Members of the Natural History Society of Aberdeen if their respected President, Dr. TRAIL, were appointed to fill the Botanical Chair in this University,—a post he is so well fitted to adorn.

He has been an enthusiastic student of Nature all his days, and since he became a member of this Society, he has on many occasions brought the results of his observations before us. In these communications it was difficult whether to admire most his habits of close, patient, and accurate observation, or his power of placing them clearly as well as in an interesting and convincing manner before others.

In my own name, as well as in that of the Society, I heartily wish him success in his candidature.

JOHN ROY.

*From F. FULLER, Esq., M.A., Professor of Mathematics in the
University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
25th January, 1877.

HAVING been for many years intimately acquainted with Mr. JAMES TRAIL, I have very great pleasure in bearing testimony to his high qualifications both moral and scientific for the Professorship for which he is a candidate.

Mr. Trail's student career was characterised by steady conscientious application and devotion to his studies, as well as by propriety and rectitude of conduct.

Since taking his degree he has devoted himself most enthusiastically to the pursuit of Natural Science, and has done good work of his own, as well as gained experience in teaching. I have the most perfect conviction that he will, if appointed, prove a zealous, able, and successful teacher—communicating his own enthusiasm to others, and advancing the study of Botany in the University; while I am certain that he will be acceptable to his students and to his colleagues from his upright conduct and gentlemanly feeling.

FREDERICK FULLER.

From F. OGSTON, Esq. M.D., Professor of Medical Logic and Medical Jurisprudence, and Dean of the Medical Faculty, University of Aberdeen.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
26th January, 1877.

I AM gratified at being able to speak in the highest terms of Mr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL, A.M., M.B., of this University, as a Candidate for its vacant chair of Botany.

His great acquirements in various branches of Science are satisfactorily attested by the circumstances that while a student here he carried off first prizes in the classes of Botany, Natural History, and Chemistry, and assisted the Professors in each of these classes; and that, at the termination of his Curricula in Arts and Medicine, he graduated in both Faculties with highest Honours.

Mr. Trail's devotion to the pursuit of Natural Science has been evinced by his assiduous cultivation of its several departments, over a period already of several years. He has thus become intimate with the natural productions of Orkney and the Northern and Central Districts of Scotland, while he has had the further advantage of a stay of eighteen months lately in South America, wholly occupied in the examination of the Flora and Fauna of the Amazon and its Tributaries, the fruits of which are now appearing in the Journal of Botany, and in the Journal of the Linnean Society, of which he is a member.

F. OGSTON.

From G. DICKIE, Esq., M.A., M.D., F.L.S., &c., Emeritus Professor of Botany in the University of Aberdeen; Author of "The Botanist's Guide to the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine"; "A Flora of Ulster, and Botanist's Guide to the North of Ireland," &c.

ABERDEEN, 26th Jan., 1877.

I HAVE great satisfaction in testifying as to the general merits of Dr. J. W. H. TRAIL; it may be sufficient to state that he received his Arts and Medical Degrees with Highest Honours.

I have equal pleasure in stating his special qualifications. He was a student in my class during two successive Sessions, was a prizemen at the end of both, and at the termination of the second took the highest rank.

In July, 1873, Dr. Hooker, Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, asked me to recommend some one to act as Botanist to an expedition about to explore the Amazon. I had no hesitation in recommending Dr. Trail, and he received the appointment.

His services during a year and a half were most satisfactory; his collections embraced all departments of Botany, Phanerogamic as well as Cryptogamic, and comprehended many new species. His papers on Palms in the Journal of Botany, give ample evidence of his acuteness and powers of observation.

He has repeatedly acted as my substitute in conducting the practical excursions, his very thorough knowledge of the Flora of this District, and of the localities, rendering him highly qualified for such work.

His Medical Education gives him great advantage as a teacher, in relation to the vegetable part of the *Materia Medica*.

He has been a frequent contributor to the pages of the *Scottish Naturalist*, and to the business of the Natural History Society of Aberdeen.

I believe him to be fully qualified to undertake the duties of Professor of Botany in our Medical School. I know no one in this quarter whose claims are equal to those of Dr. Trail.

G. DICKIE.

From ALEX. HARVEY, M.D., *Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Aberdeen ; Consulting Physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Author of " Trees and their Nature, or the Bud and its Attributes ; " " The Bud and the Seed ; " " The Wellingtonia gigantea, its Age and Expectation of Life ; " The Cereals ; their Natural History ; " &c.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
26th January, 1877.

DEAR DR. TRAIL,—Having now for sixteen years held a chair in this University, which is, besides, my own *Alma Mater*, I am naturally interested in the appointment about to be made of a successor to my late colleague, Dr. Dickie, in the Chair of Botany. And I would fain hope that such an appointment will be made by the Crown, as shall tend to advance the high and growing reputation of our Medical School.

My hope is, that you will be appointed to the Chair ; and indeed, I cannot imagine any appointment that would be more creditable to Her Majesty's Government, or more conducive to the furtherance of the best interests of the University.

I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction,—a conviction I have long held, that your qualifications for that particular Chair, are of the highest order,—whether regard be had to your attainments in the department of Natural Science, or your great intelligence, or your tried and approved capacity in the imparting of your knowledge to others.

Your whole University career in Aberdeen has been such as to reflect on you the highest credit. A graduate (M.A.) in Arts, you graduated with "*Honours in Natural Science*,"—the highest position attainable by you. You thus evinced, at an early period, a taste for pursuits in the department to which Botany belongs, and gave proofs of high attainments in it. Again, as a student of Medicine, it is enough to say, that you graduated M.B. and C.M. with "*Highest Academical Honours*". This (and the like is true of that in Arts) was a distinction attained by very few graduates here or elsewhere; and at this University it always implies a very high order of merit.

Further, the reputation you had already made for yourself while still a student, led in 1873 to your being appointed, by Dr. Hooker, Naturalist to a Scientific Expedition to the Valley of the Amazon. The good and really genuine work you did there in that capacity, in the brief space of eighteen months, will be spoken to by others. I may remark, however, that you discovered a large number of species of animals and plants heretofore unknown to Naturalists (and now stored in the National Museum), and that, while you gave the most entire satisfaction to Dr. Hooker and others interested in that Expedition, you have confessedly (all competent to judge allowing it), added greatly to your reputation as a man of science.

In short, your appointment to the Chair of Botany would, in my opinion, be but a fitting reward for services already rendered by you to the cause of Natural Science. Still more, it would enable you, while still fresh and vigorous, to devote

all your energies to the advancement of that cause ; and you have already given good promise that rich results would hereafter accrue from your labours.

Wishing you all success,

I am, Dear Dr. Trail,

Very sincerely yours,

ALEX. HARVEY.

From F. OGSTON, Jun., Esq., M.D., Assistant Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Aberdeen University; one of the Physicians of the Aberdeen Dispensary.

156 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
25th Jan., 1877.

It gave me great pleasure to hear that my friend Mr. JAMES TRAIL, A.M., M.B., was coming forward as a candidate for the Chair of Botany in Aberdeen University, vacant by the retirement of Dr. Dickie, as there are few men so well fitted as he is to fill such a position.

Even as a child he showed a strong love for the Science of Botany, and since then he has lost no chance of perfecting himself in it, till now, though still a young man, he occupies a distinguished place among botanists, and it would reflect honour on his University should he be elected to fill the Chair of Botany in it.

With regard to the matter of lecturing, he possesses a clear and interesting style of speaking, and would be able to interest the students and to carry them along with him.

I have much pleasure in wishing Mr. Trail success in his candidature, both for his own sake, and for that of our *Alma Mater*.

F. OGSTON, Jun.

*From the Rev. WM. R. PIRIE, D.D., Professor of Divinity and
Church History.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
26th January, 1877.

I HAVE much pleasure in certifying that I have been acquainted with Dr. JAMES TRAIL for many years, that I consider him a young man of good principles and high moral character; that during the whole course of his studies he has been distinguished by earnestness and steadiness, and that all his Professors have spoken of him, as one who is likely, to the best of their belief, to take a good position, and that specially with regard to subjects connected with Natural Science.

WM. R. PIRIE.

From WM. STEPHENSON, Esq., M.D., *Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Aberdeen.*

261 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
26th January, 1877.

AS to the special qualifications of Dr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL as a Botanist, I am not in a position to offer an opinion, but I can say, from personal knowledge, that he possesses an extensive general culture and acquaintance with kindred sciences, together with abilities of a high order, and an enthusiastic devotion to his own branch, such as will greatly enhance his special qualifications for the honourable office to which he aspires. I shall look forward with pleasure to the prospect of having him as a colleague.

WM. STEPHENSON.

From DAVID THOMSON, Esq., A.M., Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Aberdeen.

THE UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN,
26th January, 1877.

MY DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your request, I write to say that, should you be successful in your present application for the Chair of Botany in this University, I should feel very happy indeed to hail you as a colleague, knowing well all your excellent qualities both of mind and of moral character.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

DAVID THOMSON.

From ALEX. DYCE DAVIDSON, Esq., M.D., Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; Assistant Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Aberdeen.

224 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
27th January, 1877.

I HAVE great pleasure in stating that I have known Dr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL for several years, and consider him eminently qualified to fill the Chair of Botany in this University.

Since ever I knew him he has always been a very hard-working and enthusiastic student of Natural Science, and of Botany especially. He has amply shown his wide knowledge of this science, both in his work at home, and in the conduct of an Exploring Expedition to the Amazon two years ago. He cannot fail to be a distinguished and popular teacher, and so to prove a worthy successor to Dr. Dickie.

ALEX. DYCE DAVIDSON, M.D.

*From the Rev. JOHN FYFE, A.M., Professor of Moral Philosophy
in the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
27th January, 1877.

I SHALL be greatly delighted if Dr. JAMES W. H. TRAIL, A.M., shall be appointed to the Chair of Botany in this University; because he has received a broad and thorough education, and is not merely an adept in one branch of knowledge; because he is an enthusiast in Natural Science, prosecuting it with the greatest ardour and perseverance, and would therefore awaken an enthusiasm in the students; because he is a gentleman of cool and sound judgment, and therefore would not be imposed upon and carried away by specious theories; and, because he would secure, what are indispensable to successful teaching,—the respect, confidence, and attachment of the students, not only by his intellectual talents and attainments, but also by the firmness, modesty, and great amiability which have made him a special favourite with his fellow-students and with all who know him.

JOHN FYFE.

From the Rev. JOHN FORBES, LL.D., D.D., Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Aberdeen.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
29th January, 1877.

WITH many other friends I have watched with much interest the career of Dr. JAMES TRAIL, son of my colleague, the Rev. Dr. Trail, Professor of Systematic Theology, as a young man, who gave high promise of doing honour to his *Alma Mater*. It is not for me to testify to the scientific attainments which qualify him for the Professorship of Botany to which at present he aspires. These I know will be amply attested by those competent to form a judgment. But I may be permitted to speak to the remarkable ardour and enthusiasm, with which from an early period he has prosecuted the various branches of Natural History, and which in a lecturer are so well calculated to kindle a corresponding enthusiasm in his hearers. And from the experience which he has had in conducting for Professor Dickie, during the last two years, the Botanical Excursions, in which he gave much satisfaction to the students, and from the clear and interesting manner in which he expounded his views in papers which he has read to the Natural History Society of Aberdeen, I think we are entitled to conclude that he possesses the qualifications second only in importance to the thorough knowledge of the subject for securing the success of a Professor—the power of imparting his knowledge to others, and commanding the attention and interest of his students.

Let me add that such I believe to be the sincerity and earnestness of Dr. Trail's moral and religious convictions as cannot fail to have a salutary influence on all who come under his charge.

JOHN FORBES.

From ANGUS FRASER, Esq., A.M., M.D., *Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.*

232 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
29th January, 1877.

DEAR Dr. TRAIL,—I am glad to hear that you are a candidate for the Chair of Botany in the University of Aberdeen, for I feel sure that you would make a good Professor.

I cannot presume to give an opinion as to your special qualifications, but these I have no doubt will be amply testified by others. I can however say that although you long ago resolved to devote yourself to Natural Science, and although you had no intention of practising Medicine or Surgery, yet you were one of the most distinguished students in the purely professional departments of Medical study. I would therefore infer that in those studies to which you have resolved specially to devote yourself, your ability and diligence must have been productive of still more successful results.

Wishing you success,

I am, yours very truly,

ANGUS FRASER.

From WM. D. GEDDES, A.M., LL.D., *Professor of Greek in the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,
29th January, 1877.

I HAVE much pleasure and confidence in giving my testimony in favour of Mr. JAMES H. TRAIL, M.A., M.B., now a candidate for the Chair of Botany in this University. He is well known to me as a young man of excellent parts, exemplary character, high principle, and extraordinary enthusiasm in the study of Natural Science, in which department he is considered, by those able to judge, as already possessing a distinguished name. During his course at college he took a good position in the classes in Arts, but, the bent of his mind being towards the Natural Sciences, it was chiefly in the department of Natural History that his Academic Honours during his Arts' course were obtained. The assiduity, earnestness, and success with which he prosecuted his favourite studies led to his nomination, while still pursuing his professional course in Medicine, to the position of Botanist in connection with the exploring expedition on the Amazon, from which he has returned with large stores of objects to enrich our Museums, and of observations to enlarge our knowledge.

It may be doubted if any young man has attained in our time, at so early an age, so high distinction as a Naturalist; and if we are proud to remember that in connection with a similar expedition regarding the Flora of New Holland an Alumnus of Aberdeen, the illustrious Robert Brown, obtained from Humboldt, the title of "*Botanicorum Princeps*," we are

pleased to think that a young Alumnus of our University seems likely to earn it anew in connection with the Flora of Brazil. There need, therefore, be no hesitation in stating my belief that Mr. Trail seems pre-eminently marked out to be a Professor of Natural Science in one or other of its departments, and I conceive that this University is fortunate in numbering among her sons, one who is able to extend the researches of Science and to add lustre to the Chair.

WM. D. GEDDES.

From J. W. F. SMITH-SHAND, Esq., M.D., Professor of Practice of Medicine in the University of Aberdeen, and Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, 29th January, 1877.

I HAVE much pleasure in expressing the high opinion I entertain of Dr. J. W. TRAIL's natural abilities and medical attainments. His University career was a very distinguished one, both in the Faculty of Arts and in that of Medicine, and he received his Degree in Medicine with Highest Academical Honours. Of Dr. Trail's scientific attainments I am not a competent judge, but I know that he has been a devoted and enthusiastic student of the Natural Sciences for many years, and I understand that he has already done good work in the botanical department.

I therefore consider that he is very well qualified to hold the position of Professor of Botany in the University of Aberdeen.

J. W. F. SMITH-SHAND.

From ROBERT J. GARDEN, Esq., M.D., C.M., *Assistant Surgeon,
Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and Medical Officer in the
Dispensary, Aberdeen.*

207 UNION STREET, ABERDEEN,
30th January, 1877.

I HAVE very great pleasure in bearing testimony to the high abilities of Dr. J. W. H. TRAIL, who is a candidate for the Chair of Botany in the University of Aberdeen.

As a student of Arts at our University, Dr. Trail distinguished himself very highly, and ended his curriculum by gaining the Science Degree with Honours. During his undergraduate career as a student of Medicine, Dr. Trail was one of the first of his year, having taken a very high place in all his classes, and finally graduated with the Highest Academical Honours.

It was for the Natural Sciences, however, that Dr. Trail always showed the greatest aptness, and in these he very specially excelled. Dr. Trail has enjoyed exceptional opportunities of studying them. For several years he was teaching assistant to the Professor of Botany in this University, and for eighteen months he was in Brazil as Naturalist to an Expedition formed to explore the Amazon and its branches.

Although a young man, Dr. Trail is already well known as an excellent Botanist, as proved by his having been elected a member of the Linnean Society. Should he be appointed Professor of Botany, I feel assured that he would do credit to our Medical School.

ROBERT JOHN GARDEN.

